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rules by the Government. With regard to the working of those rules, information so far available to the Government is that they have been worked properly. But if in the light of the discussion any further enquiry is needed and further instructions called for, I shall see that such instructions are issued. If it is urged that any further concessions ought to be granted at this time of financial stringency, I do not think it is possible to give any such undertaking. I may remind hon. Members of the House that of the several points that have been specifically referred to the Muslim Education Committee, of which several hon. Members of this House are already Members, this point, viz., whether further concession ought to be given to Muslims, is one. On their recommendation what further action will have to be taken will have to be decided. The points referred to by my hon. Friends, Messrs. Patnaik and Devadasan, are points which are not covered by the resolution of which notice has been given. Those are matters which require independent consideration, but they are certainly not relevant to the resolution which is now before us. So far as this resolution is concerned, all that I can undertake to do is, to communicate a copy of the discussion that has taken place and also issue any instructions, if necessary, to the Director of Public Instruction, to see that the rules are observed in toto."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—" In view of the assurance given by the hon. Minister, I beg leave to withdraw my resolution."

The resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

(5) SUPPLY OF WATER TO SALEM TOWN FROM METTUR RESERVOIR

Diwan Bahadur S. ELLAPPA CHETTIYAR:—" I beg to move the resolution that stands in my name which runs as follows:—

'*This Council recommends to the Government that steps should be taken to supply water to Salem town from Mettur Reservoir for drinking purposes at an early date.*'

" Sir, in moving this resolution, I do not propose to advance the same arguments that were made in support of a similar resolution moved by me on 29th January 1930. It is a well-known fact that Salem town is in need of good and sufficient drinking water. It is also admitted that Government have completely failed to satisfy the needs of the people in the past. The Government have refused to supply water from Mettur dam even for drinking purposes, if not for irrigation purposes. His Excellency the Governor has seen the place very carefully and realized the difficulties which the poor inhabitants of Salem were undergoing for getting drinking water. So I think it is not necessary for me to say much in order to impress upon the mind of the hon. the Chief Minister the urgent necessity of supplying drinking water to the people of Salem. When I moved a resolution on the

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same subject, the then Minister for Public Health in accepting my resolution said as follows:—

'Government will accept this resolution to the extent that Government will take all possible steps to try and persuade the Municipal Council to provide water-supply to the town of Salem.'

"They also said that the matter was under investigation and it was possible to supply water to Salem from Mettur dam. In reply to an interpellation of mine regarding the supply of water from Mettur dam, it was said that investigation was completed and the Government were examining the financial aspect of the whole question.

"Sir, Government are sympathetic but they are always confronted with financial stringency. I am afraid there will be no salvation for the people of Salem if the Government are going to repeat the same reply, viz., financial stringency every time. It is very long since this reply was given and I am strongly of opinion that the Government should at once come forward to rescue the people of Salem by sanctioning two-thirds of the cost, the balance to be met by the Salem Municipal Council. Instead of doing this, if Government were to expect the major portion from the Municipal Council the financial position of which is very poor, there will be no solution of this problem. If Government were to do like this, it would mean that the Government want to shelve the whole thing, and go back on the assurance which they gave on 30th January 1930 on the floor of this House, viz., that Government would take all possible steps and try to provide the Municipality with water supply. So, in view of that assurance, the hon. the Minister in charge will be kind enough to accept my resolution. My chief object in moving this resolution is to request the hon. the Chief Minister to give us a statement as to how the financial question between the Government and the Municipal Council stands and make him persuade the hon. the Finance Member to provide some funds for this purpose at least in the coming budget for beginning the preliminaries of the scheme and also to see that the scheme is given a start at an early date without the same being postponed on the plea of financial stringency.

"With these few words, I move the resolution."

* Dr. P. Subbarayan:—"I second the resolution which has been moved by my hon. Friend from Salem. With regard to water supply to Salem, this matter has been investigated for a long time and as far as I know, the difficulty seems to be the cost of pumping that will have to be carried out at Mettur if water is to be brought to Salem from Mettur. The contention of the municipality seems to be that this pumping operation costs them about Rs. 60,000 a year and that they will not be able to pay from their taxation. One of the chief concessions that the municipality wanted from the hon. Minister was that this should be done free of cost. I believe the Minister said that he would consider the matter favourably and that he would also place this matter before His Excellency. His Excellency also during his recent visit after

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seeing the state of water-supply in Salem and after inspecting the spot, was very sympathetic to the proposal but he also pleaded financial stringency. If this question of financial stringency is to stand in the way there will be no solution. I would also like to mention in this connexion that already the people of Salem have been taxed with regard to a water-supply scheme that has failed. Government thought that the Panamarathupatti scheme would give all the supply of water that is needed for the town of Salem but that scheme has failed, and all the
4-45 p.m. money that the municipality spent on it has become a waste. But that could not be anticipated at that time. Both the municipality and the Government thought at that time that this scheme could give a constant supply of water to Salem town. This having failed and the people of Salem having willingly taxed themselves for this, it will be hard on them if they should be asked to pay once more for another scheme. I submit that they should not be asked to pay Rs. 60,000 or so which has been estimated to be the cost of raising water at Mettur. I hope the hon. Minister will consider the case of Salem favourably and see what he can do to help it."

* Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Goundar:—" Sir, this question has been engaging the attention both of the Salem Municipal Council and the Government for a sufficiently long time, but no substantial benefit has resulted till now. Recently His Excellency the Governor also graced our district with a visit and he was personally convinced that the present water-supply is quite inadequate for Salem. Having got personal knowledge of the real situation through the head of the Province and the Members of his Cabinet, I hope the Government will not now put forward the plea of financial stringency in the case of such an urgent need as this, but manage to take up the scheme on hand at once and get it finished bit by bit at least in the course of some years, if not all at once.

" The hon. the Leader of the Opposition referred to the question of pumping operation to be done at Mettur. I understand that the Government are going to put up an electric installation for the purpose of working the dam line at Mettur and so I venture to suggest that it can be conveniently spared free of charge for pumping operations, thereby reducing the maintenance cost to be met by the municipality year by year. I understand the Government will lose nothing by allowing the installation to be used for this purpose in order to save for the municipality an unbearable annual recurring charge.

" In fine, I once again request the Government in all humility to consider the urgent need of Salem for an adequate supply of drinking water and accept this resolution and to take immediate steps to give all possible aid to the municipality for the early commencement of the work."

* Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar:—" Sir, I am rather in a difficulty as to what exactly is the attitude that I should take on this question. We are not in possession of complete information with regard to the scheme for supplying Salem with water from Mettur.

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I had something to do with the question of supplying Mettur water for Salem some time ago and I believe some investigations have been made I believe, if I am right, they estimated that it would cost Rs. 28,00,000 to supply Salem with water from Mettur.

" Apart from the Mettur scheme, the possibility of supplying Salem with water from other sources has not been completely investigated. I made a suggestion that investigation should be made as to the possibility of diverting the whole of the Panamarathupatti stream into the tank. At present only a small supply channel is taken from it and the bulk of the water is allowed to go down. It was stated at the time that irrigation rights under the main stream would have to be acquired if the whole stream had to be diverted. But considering that the Mettur scheme would cost about Rs. 28,00,000 it is highly desirable that we should exhaust all other possibilities before we take up the Mettur scheme.

" In this connexion, I may remark that most of our sanitary schemes —water-supply schemes—are exceedingly costly. I have been insisting, whenever I had the power to do so, that the cost should be made as low as possible. I had suggested that instead of using cast iron and steel pipes, we should consider the possibility of using masonry conduits and things like that by carrying channels on a contour instead of having pressure pipes. I must say that experts have always been against considering the question I have raised. They have always insisted on using cast iron and steel pipes. If this expert opinion should prevail for all time, I am afraid it would be many many years and even centuries before all the cities in this Presidency are supplied with a protected water-supply. I want to know whether, in connexion with the scheme for supplying water to Salem from Mettur, the possibility of taking the water along contour line instead of crossing valleys necessitating pressure pipes, has been considered. Have they considered the possibility of using masonry conduits which can be done at a very small cost as compared with cast iron and steel pipes? If it was not possible to find any other source of supply except Mettur, we have to fall back on Mettur alone. Then of course other questions will arise. I believe the contention of the municipality was that Government should supply electric power free of cost, because it was developed at Mettur. I believe the estimated cost of power supply was somewhere about Rs. 60,000 a year. Even if Government agreed to grant this power free of cost, I am afraid the cost of the pipe line will be a very serious item indeed. I certainly am second to none in saying that Salem should be supplied with protected water-supply, but we ought to put a limit somewhere. I do not think, if we went on sanctioning schemes so costly as for example the Coimbatore Water-supply Scheme costing Rs. 42,00,000, we would ever make any progress in the way of giving a protected water-supply to all the cities in the Presidency. Unless sanitary experts are in a position to put forward cheaper schemes, the problem of providing protected water-supply to the whole of the Presidency will never be solved. I would therefore hesitate very much before I recommend the very costly scheme of supplying water to Salem from Mettur unless all other alternatives were exhausted, and secondly unless Government gave an assurance

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that they would try to make the scheme as cheap as possible by using cheap materials and adopting other devices to reduce the cost of the scheme.

"I know that Salem is very badly off for water and it is the duty of the Government to do all that is possible to give the town a protected water-supply. I believe some years ago a supplementary scheme was sanctioned for an infiltration gallery below the tank. I do not know what the result of the scheme is. Possibly it was thought at that time that it would lead to some improvement. But later on it might not have met the requirements of an increasing population. Of course it is the duty of the Government to do something to improve the water-supply of Salem, but I hope that before they undertook the very costly Mettur scheme they would consider other possible alternatives and do all that is possible to reduce the heavy estimated cost of the scheme."

* Subadar-Major S. A. NANJAPPAH Bahadur:—"Mr. President, Sir, the question of a protected water-supply scheme for Salem has been under consideration since 1927. Many high officials of Government, Members and Ministers, and even His Excellency the Governor who visited Salem have been impressed with the urgency of the problem in Salem. A resolution was also passed in this Council, but nothing substantial has been done till now. The municipality which is suffering from chronic poverty has not got sufficient funds to finance the scheme and they have been approaching Government to help them with funds to the extent of two-thirds of the cost, while they themselves would bear the remaining one-third. His Excellency the Governor also laid stress on the financial stringency of the province and the consequent inability of Government to finance the scheme at present. But the sad plight of over a lakh of people in the town has to be considered. Recently although there was 2 inches of rain in Salem, the Panamarathupatti tank got only 6 inches of water. Salem is an industrial centre and most of the people are weavers who require a large supply of water. One result of this insufficient supply is the periodical visit of epidemic diseases. The people of Salem have spent over 9 lakhs of rupees for the Panamarathupatti tank scheme which has been a failure. We cannot, in fairness to them, ask them to pay more. The taxes are already too high. I hope that Government will do something at once to come to the aid of the people of Salem and before long give them a protected water-supply."

* The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—"Sir, the subject of a protected water-supply for Salem has come before this Council more than once. The investigation of this scheme was ordered only in April 1930. The Sanitary Engineer submitted a scheme shortly afterwards. The scheme had to be re-examined with reference to the possibility of substituting electric power to work the pumps instead of water power. A conference was held at Ootacamund on the 11th May 1931 and as a result of the decisions then taken, the experts of the department were asked to submit fresh proposals. The Sanitary Engineer submitted four proposals—really two batches of proposals—one for the purpose of supplying Salem town alone and the other for the purpose of supplying Salem town and all the villages along the pipe line also.

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The one that is cheaper according to him, costs Rs. 21,43,000 and will supply Salem town alone; the other which will supply the villages also on the pipe line will cost Rs. 22,54,000. The working charges will come to Rs. 74,000 for the one scheme and Rs. 94,000 for the other scheme. The Municipal Council has been addressed on the 21st October last asking which of the two schemes it would take up and how it proposed to finance it.

"No doubt in the order it has been stated that they must be prepared to bear the major portion of the expenditure. They were asked to state definitely to what extent they can finance the scheme. The Government have not yet received their reply on these points, and after the reply is received, the Government will consider it as anxiously as possible. I can only say this: that Salem requires decent water-supply is recognized by all. Recently in reply to an address from the Salem people, when His Excellency visited that place, he said to the following effect: 'I feel sure that you will understand that, in these circumstances, it is somewhat premature for the Government to commit themselves as to the exact proportion of the amount of loan they will be able to give or as to the terms under which electric power can be supplied. You may however rest assured that I feel that there is imperative need for good water-supply and will do as much to help you.' I cannot add anything more to that. As to the suggestions made by my hon. Friend, Mr. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar, I shall certainly forward them to the Sanitary Engineer and ask him what remarks he has to offer on them."

Diwan Bahadur S. ELLAPPA CHETTIYAR:—"In view of the assurance given by the hon. Minister that he will expedite the scheme, I withdraw my motion."

The resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

The House then adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. the next day.

V.—PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE.

1. [a] *Press Communiqués issued in connection with the meetings of the Retrenchment Committee held on the* 21*st to* 24*th and* 26*th October* 1931.

2. [b] *G.O. No.* 2496 *W., dated* 3*rd October* 1931, *issuing rules for the use of, and regulation of traffic on, the Nilambur-Kalikavu-Karuvarakundu Road.*

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

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[a] Printed as Appendix VIII on pages 473-476 infra.

[b] Published in the *Fort St. George Gazette.*